

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0236

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN EFIN IN

SUBJ: CIVAIR: RUPEE PAYMENT OF US/INDIA/US EXCURSION FARE ILLEGAL?

1. PAN AMERICAN SOUTH ASIA DIRECTOR REPPUN HAS TOLD US THAT AIR-INDIA HAS RAISED WITH US CARRIERS IN INDIA LEGALITY OF SALES BY THEM OF ROUND-TRIP EXCURSION FARE US/INDIA/US TO USG PERSONNEL AGAINST RUPEE GTRS. AIR INDIA ASSERTS AND PAN AM AGREES, THAT US/INDIA/US EXCURSION TICKET, UNLIKE ORDINARY FULL-FARE TICKET, MUST BE SOLD IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF TRAVEL. THEREFORE, (WHERE TRAVELLER ORIGINATES IN US) SALE OF TICKET AGAINST RUPEE GTR WHICH AMOUNTS TO SALE IN INDIA CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF EXCURSION FARE EMBODIED IN UNDERTAKINGS TO BOTH USCAB AND IATA. PAN AM SAYS PRACTICE LEAVES THEM SUBJECT TO PUNITIVE ACTION BY ONE OR BOTH BODIES.

2. REPPUN SAYS THAT ABOUT 400 USG EMPLOYEES ANNUALLY TRAVEL ROUND TRIP TO INDIA ON EXCURSION FARE.

3. ASSUMING PAN AM CHARACTERIZATION OF CONDITIONS OF SALE OF EXCURSION TICKET IS ACCURATE, COMPANY HAS UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN TO AVOID IATA OR CAB FINE.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTS/CAB'S CONFIRMATION THAT
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TICKET RESTRICTION IS AS PAN AM STATES. IS THERE ANY EXCEPTION FOR

GOVERNMENT TRAVEL? IN VIEW OF UNIQUE RUPEE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS,
WOULD IT BE LIKELY THAT AIR INDIA COMPLAINT WOULD BE UPHELD?

5. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM EXISTS WHAT
REMEDIAL ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. COULD US AIRLINES PRESS FOR
ELIMINATION OF ORIGIN RESTRICTION IN IATA. SHOULD WE SWITCH TO
REGULAR FARES (RUPEE FINANCED).

6. IN CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE
INTO CONSIDERATION THAT GOI UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT AIR INDIA MOVE.
SWITCH FROM EXCURSION FARE TO REGULAR FARE WOULD ONLY INCREASE PAN
AM REMITTANCES AND INDIAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTFLOWS.
SCHNEIDER

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